

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of October 14, 2009 issued with respect to the present RCE application, the Applicant submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the following Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the self-sealing disconnect coupling has two parts which disconnectedly couple so as to couple the printhead hoses to the reservoir hoses. Support for this amendment can be found at page 41, lines 1-6 and Figs. 10 and 11 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 5, 12, 13, 17, 18, 21-31, 37-42, 44, 45 and 47-49 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 5, 12, 13, 17, 18, 21-31, 37-42, 44, 45 and 47-49 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by any one of more of Martin, Nozawa, Petterson, Goldstein, Silverbrook, Rasmussen and Austin in view of newly cited Miller, for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to combine the Miller and Petterson with the other cited references so as to use the tubing set 36, manifold 60 and ink couplers 66 disclosed by Miller (see col. 7, lines 3015) as the claimed "reservoir hoses", "coupling" and "printhead hoses" of the claimed invention, with the manifold 60 of Miller modified to be a self-sealing coupling as disclosed Petterson at col. 1, lines 43-55. The Applicant respectfully disagrees based on the following explicit teachings in Miller,

Miller specifically discloses at col. 9, lines 37-53 that the parts of the manifold 60 are preferable joined together by ultrasonic welding, adhesive or other sealing technique which ensures a lead-resistant joiner. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art understands that the parts of the manifold 60 of Miller are to be non-disconnectedly joined together.

Accordingly, there is no motivation from the disclosure of Miller to modify the manifold to be one of the couplings described by Petterson.

Furthermore, Miller further discloses at col. 10, line 65-col. 11, line 7 an alternative embodiment in which the manifold is eliminated and direct connection is used to reduce ink leak risks. Thus, if one of ordinary skill in the art was motivated to modify the manifold arrangement of Miller, the only modification one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make from the disclosure of Miller is to omit the manifold altogether, not replace the manifold with one of the couplings described by Petterson in a combined arrangement with the other cited references.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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